What is claimed is:

1.   A system for providing a user interface with search query broadening, comprising:

an input module accepting a query defining a search executable on potentially retrievable information and parsing the query;

a query broadening module providing a broadened query; and

a presentation module presenting at least one of the broadened query and results of a search executed on the broadened query.

2.   A system according to Claim 1, wherein providing the broadened query comprises determining a meaning for at least a portion of the query.

3.   A system according to Claim 2, wherein providing the broadened query comprises determining a related concept based on the meaning.

4.   A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an evaluation module providing at least one broadened search characteristic to the broadened query.

5.   A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an evaluation module performing at least one of modifying, replacing, supplementing, removing, or restating the at least one search characteristic.

6.   A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a selection module selecting at least one broadening search characteristic from a set of words having a synonymous, alternate spelling, common root, or similar semantic meaning.

7.   A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a selection module selecting at least one broadening search characteristic from a set of words having a related conceptual meaning.

8.   A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2   an operator provided with at least one broadening search characteristic to

3 request query broadening.

1   9.   A system according to Claim 8, further comprising:

2   a delimiter provided with the operator to signal ordinary meaning with

3 respect to the operator.

1   10.   A system according to Claim 1, wherein the query comprises a

2 plurality of search characteristics, further comprising:

3   a grouping module logically grouping at least two of the search

4 characteristics into a compound search characteristic, wherein the query

5 broadening module provides at least one broadening search characteristic for the

6 compound search characteristic.

1   11.   A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2   a hyperlink module presenting at least one search characteristic in the

3 broadened query as a hyperlink, wherein the query broadening module forms the

4 broadened query comprising the at least one search characteristic responsive to a

5 selection of the hyperlink.

1   12.   A system according to Claim 11, further comprising:

2   a display module displaying the broadened query as a static list responsive

3 to a highlighting of the hyperlink.

1   13.   A system according to Claim 11, wherein the hyperlink module

2 presents an option triggering selection of each such search characteristic in the

3 broadened query as a hyperlink.

1   14.   A system according to Claim 1, wherein the presentation module

2 presents at least one search characteristic in the broadened query as at least one of

3 a static list, a menu of selectable search characteristics, a set of checkboxes, and a

4 list of selectable search characteristics.

1   15.   A system according to Claim 1, wherein the presentation module

2   presents an option triggering selection of each such search characteristic in the

3   broadened query.

1   16.   A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2   a query engine executing the broadened query.

1   17.   A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2   a graphical user interface interfacing the input module, the query

3   broadening module, and the presentation module.

1   18.   A method for providing a user interface with search query

2   broadening, comprising:

3   accepting a query defining a search executable on potentially retrievable

4   information and parsing the query;

5   providing a broadened query; and

6   presenting at least one of the broadened query and results of a search

7   executed on the broadened query.

1   19.   A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   providing the broadened query comprises determining a meaning for at

3   least a portion of the query.

1   20.   A method according to Claim 19, further comprising:

2   providing the broadened query comprises determining a related concept

3   based on the meaning.

1   21.   A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   providing at least one broadened search characteristic to the broadened

3   query.

1   22.   A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   performing at least one of modifying, replacing, supplementing, removing,

3   or restating the at least one search characteristic.

1   23.   A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   selecting at least one broadening search characteristic from a set of words

3 having a synonymous, alternate spelling, common root, or similar semantic

4 meaning.

1   24.   A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   selecting at least one broadening search characteristic from a set of words

3 having a related conceptual meaning.

1   25.   A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   providing an operator with at least one broadening search characteristic to

3 request query broadening.

1   26.   A method according to Claim 25, further comprising:

2   providing a delimiter with the operator to signal ordinary meaning with

3 respect to the operator.

1   27.   A method according to Claim 18, wherein the query comprises a

2 plurality of search characteristics, further comprising:

3   logically grouping at least two of the search characteristics into a

4 compound search characteristic; and

5   providing at least one broadening search characteristic for the compound

6 search characteristic.

1   28.   A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   presenting at least one search characteristic in the broadened query as a

3 hyperlink; and

4   forming the broadened query comprising the at least one search

5 characteristic responsive to a selection of the hyperlink.

1   29.   A method according to Claim 28, further comprising:

2   displaying the broadened query as a static list responsive to a highlighting

3 of the hyperlink.

1 30. A method according to Claim 28, further comprising:

2   presenting an option triggering selection of each such search characteristic

3 in the broadened query as a hyperlink.

1 31. A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   presenting at least one search characteristic in the broadened query as at

3 least one of a static list, a menu of selectable search characteristics, a set of

4 checkboxes, and a list of selectable search characteristics.

1 32. A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   presenting an option triggering selection of each such search characteristic

3 in the broadened query.

1 33. A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   executing the broadened query.

1 34. A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

2   providing a graphical user interface interfacing the input module, the

3 query broadening module, and the presentation module.

1 35. A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing

2 the method according to Claim 18.

1 36. An apparatus for providing a user interface with search query

2 broadening, comprising:

3   code for accepting a query defining a search executable on potentially

4 retrievable information and code for parsing the query;

5   code for providing a broadened query; and

6   code for presenting at least one of the broadened query and results of a

7 search executed on the broadened query.